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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

High -5°C/Low -11°C Chance of flurries

LOOK WHO'S BACK

Patrik Laine plays first game since concussion diagnosis

metroSPORTS

Patrik Laine carries the puck past the Sharks' Patrick Marleau during the first period in Winnipeg on Tuesday.
TREVOR HAGAN/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Growth fees spark lawsuit

COURTS

Developers argue city lacks power to enact 'indirect tax'

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

It's official. Developers in Winnipeg have launched a legal challenge against the city's growth fees plan.

On Tuesday, the Manitoba Home Builders' Association and Urban Development Institute announced they filed a notice of application at Manitoba's Court of Queen's Bench that morning, requesting the new impact fee bylaw be reviewed by a judge.

They are asking the court to render the bylaw invalid on the grounds that the city does not have legal authority under the City of Winnipeg Charter to implement the new fees without provincial assent.

The pair of development groups also want a ruling that states the bylaw is an "indirect tax" on homebuyers and is discriminatory since it only applies to some, not all, new homes.

"The legal validity of the impact fee bylaw has been in question since Day 1," association president Mike Moore said in a statement.

The application adds there is no correlation between the revenue from the new fees and the capital cost of servicing the city's new and existing infrastructure, which is the entire basis of growth charges.

A first court appearance has been set for Feb. 21.

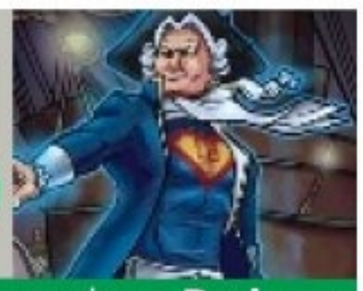
Mayor Brian Bowman said the legal challenge comes as no surprise since both groups announced months ago they planned on taking the city to court.

"We feel our position is strong," he told reporters on Tuesday, reiterating that he wants to get the court proceedings over with as quickly as possible.

Bowman maintains the charges are regulatory fees, not taxes, and the city is well within its authority.

Last October, city council voted 10-6 in favour of charging the new fees on home builders after weeks of hearing forceful opposition by the development community.

metro NEWS



Your essential daily news

DC Comics threatens to sue Vancouver Realtor and self-anointed superhero. **Business**

No answers on ban

WILDLIFE

Province won't say if they will move to outlaw night hunting

The Manitoba government refused to say Tuesday whether it will try to ban Indigenous hunting at night — a move that would appease municipal leaders and anger Indigenous groups.

Sustainable Development Minister Cathy Cox emerged from a 40-minute meeting with reeves from several communities in western Manitoba to say the government plans to bring both sides to the table in the near future and try to work out an agreement.

"We want to address safe hunting here in the province in Manitoba, and also sustainability of our big-game population," Cox said, adding a date had not been set for the meeting.

Asked whether a ban on Indigenous night hunting is on the table, Cox did not answer directly.

"We want to have good, fulsome discussions and we want to include all parties, and I think that by working together and gaining consensus ... we will ensure that we have safe hunting conditions for Manitobans well into the future."

Non-Indigenous hunters are not allowed to hunt at night. Indigenous hunters are allowed - supported by a Supreme Court of Canada ruling — subject to safety restrictions.

The issue flared up last week when Premier Brian Pallister said the tension is leading to a "race war."

"Young Indigenous guys going out and shooting a bunch of moose 'cause they can, 'cause they say it's their right, doesn't make any sense to me," he said in a speech in Virden. "This is a poor practice. A dumb practice ... It should stop.

"So what are we doing? We're organizing to bring Indigenous people together and say the same thing I just said to you, 'cause it's becoming a race war and I don't want that."

The comments were roundly criticized by Indigenous leaders.

"Allegations that Indigenous people are responsible for declining moose populations will be made, when in fact far more moose are killed by sport hunters," Sen. Murray Sinclair wrote on social media Tuesday. He called Pallister's comments "inflammatory."

Scott Phillips, reeve of the rural municipality of Sifton, pointed to events in recent months in which livestock have been shot at night and found injured by farmers the next day. Last fall, an Indigenous hunter died in a night-hunting accident.

The reeves said non-Indigenous people are also hunting at night, and more enforcement is needed.

They applauded the province for recent moves to add more conservation officers to the area. But they also maintain their end goal is a province where night hunting is outlawed for all.

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation has called on Manitoba to follow Saskatchewan's lead and ban night hunting for everyone in certain populated areas. Indigenous groups agreed after the province got the support of elders, the federation said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"
The province does not have the authority to impede Indigenous rights to the land.
Grand Chief Derek Nepinak
"
We don't think that discharging a firearm at night is a safe practice.
Scott Phillips

Non-Indigenous hunters are not allowed to hunt at night. Indigenous hunters are allowed but are subject to safety restrictions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATA COLLECTION

Traffic centre opens

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

It's where the dreams of Winnipeg drivers come true.

The city's new $3.6-million traffic management centre officially opened its doors on Tuesday.

The centre, headquartered on Elgin Avenue, promises to be the ground zero of traffic data collection in the city, tracking where accidents occur and adjusting the timing of lights to make for smoother rides.

"Seven years ago, a third of our city was controlled by dials and cogs found in museums," Jonathan Foord, Signals Asset Engineer, told a crowd of reporters and city officials gathered for Tuesday's opening.

"Even a few years ago most of our intersections would go into flash when the rain was on an angle. We've come a long way."

Now all 650 of the city's signal intersections will be controlled and monitored through one central system.

Staff will also have a bird's eye view of what's happening on the roads through 70 new cameras installed at busy intersections around the city.

Foord said the cameras can zoom up to three kilometres away from where they are mounted and have the ability to shake off snow.

From now on when a traffic signal breaks, the centre will be notified immediately through its connected system so it will be fixed faster than having to wait for a resident to call the city.

"What we've done in two years is, as far as I know, unprecedented," Foord said.

"To hook up 650 signalized intersections in eight months with the cost that we did — half a million — is unheard of."

The state-of-the-art command centre features four work stations, and a large six-screen panel that broadcasts a live feed from the various road cameras beside detailed maps of the city.

Michael Cantor, a traffic signals engineer, called the centre a "game changer" for the city.

One of the biggest bonuses to updating the city's outdated traffic signal system is synchronized lights, which provides drivers with longer stretches of green lights, making for smoother rides and fewer tempers.

Cantor couldn't say exactly how much time drivers will be able to shave of their morning and evening commutes thanks to the new system.

Drivers will be able to access information about what's happening on our roads through Waze, Google's community-driven traffic app, which the city entered into a date-sharing agreement with back in November.

The data collected by the traffic management centre will be shared across other city departments, including with the Winnipeg Police Service, Cantor said.

Mayor Brian Bowman said protocols need to be developed to ensure peoples' privacy is protected in order for that information-sharing to take place. Cantor said the centre will be staffed from Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m..

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Winnipeg's unseasonably warm weather has closed the Red River Mutual Trail and the skating rink at The Forks. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Winter temps above normal

WEATHER

Drastic shifts caused by two colliding air masses: Expert

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg's weather this winter has been about as hot and cold as the Jets, and that's really saying something.

Environment and Climate Change Canada meteorologist John Paul Cragg said overall the temperature is trending higher than normal, but with some rather notable, significant and different-from-normal "fluctuations."

He said unseasonably warm spells like the record-setting stretch that made a slushy mess of the city over the weekend are just one example.

First off, 2016 wrapped up with the warmest November on record, and an above-zero average temperature kept things like the Red River Mutual Trail from freezing early on.

Then, Cragg said, December started off similarly warm and only balanced out to "near normal" with a temperature drop in the latter half of the month.

"It was an average December in the end," he explained, noting however that it was abnormal on the precipitation front as it wound up being one of the snowiest Decembers ever, with nearly 69 centimetres of white stuff falling practically all at once.

> There is often quite a bit of fluctuation in winter months in Winnipeg. John Paul Cragg

That strangeness preceded a "very cold" start to January which brought Winnipeggers back to reality and froze outdoor skating facilities at last, right before things heated up slowly until "temperatures stayed above zero for 67-hours straight" between Jan. 20 and 22, setting a January record for above zero temps in Winnipeg.

Cragg said temperatures in January normally average around -16.4 C, but despite the early month cold snap the average for January 2017 is -14.89 C and climbing.

"It's only going to get higher as we move through this month," Cragg said, pointing to more mild days ahead. "Temperatures are potentially bumping back up close to zero again for daytime highs early next week, before potentially dropping down to much cooler temperatures… near the beginning of February."

Cragg explained the ups and downs are caused by two dominant air masses that infiltrate the prairies, one blasts cold air "unimpeded from the Arctic" and the other streams "warm pacific air" over the mountains across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

"There is often quite a bit of fluctuation in winter months in Winnipeg… you often see the big shifts in temperature from one week to the next because of those two air masses," he said. "But for this month the warm-up has been particularly long and persistent."

"That's the difference."

Early February weather models are calling for "colder than average to average" highs and lows, which Cragg said would add up to "an overall winter that's closer to average."

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Student wins $10K for recycling idea

ENVIRONMENT

E-waste plan wows at Game Changer event

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Most residents in Manitoba have some kind of e-waste stockpiled at home, know it can be recycled, yet are unlikely to do something with it.

That problem was recently confronted by a team of students who won an annual big idea competition called Game Changer with their plan for an annual recycling event.

Haneen Shouman, one of the University of Manitoba students on Team Loop — which won $10,000 for their e-waste solution — said their goal was to "make the problem of e-waste less significant."

In their prep-work, Team Loop's research found approximately 50 per cent of Manitobans have e-waste in their homes, about 38 per cent of it is audio-video equipment, 62 per cent is old cellphones, and between 45 and 48 per cent is old computer equipment.

Cellphones could be picked up as part of an annual collection.
THE RECORD

She said people stockpile e-waste and "know where to send it" but are often unwilling to make a trip to a recycling facility so they "throw these items in the normal garbage."

"Our solution was a non-profit organization that would handle the marketing and awareness campaign in the City of Winnipeg for an e-waste collection event that would happen over a weekend every year," Shouman explained.

She said it would be like how bags of raked leaves or Christmas trees get collected, it could just become an easy annual chore rather than a special trip with Team Loop's plan.

The full-time students aren't sure if they have the means to turn it into a citywide reality just yet, but recycling centres and other organizations have been calling since they won Game Changer.

"We're still discussing how we can make this materialize," Shouman said. "We were talking about maybe just starting this on campus (at U of M) and see how it works, then take that plan and maybe gradually grow it to cover more residential areas.

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Opponents of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines hold a rally as they protest U.S. President Donald Trump's executive orders advancing their construction, at Lafayette Park next to the White House on Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Keystone revived

ENVIRONMENT

Trump signs order reviving possibility of new pipeline

A zombie project that has spent years haunting Canada-U.S. relations in its never-born-yet-never-quite-dead state of perpetual limbo has just been given hope of life by new U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Keystone XL pipeline is alive — maybe.

Trump revived hopes for the dormant project Tuesday. He signed an executive order that could build the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline, the subject of a multi-year saga that cast a long shadow on bilateral relations.

He signed several executive orders related to infrastructure and construction, with the highest-profile one involving the pipeline that, if completed, would carry more than one-fifth of the oil Canada exports to the U.S.

The order invites pipeline-maker TransCanada Corp. to re-submit an application for a permit. It also encourages U.S. federal regulatory agencies to respond the opposite way the Obama administration did: favourably, and quickly, within 60 days.

"(It) directs agencies to approve it without delay," Trump spokesman Sean Spicer said Tuesday. "There's an energy revolution that's gonna happen in this country. In spite of the bureaucratic and political barriers that have happened in the past, we're ready to move forward."

The company issued a statement several hours later confirming it would re-apply: "We are currently preparing the application and intend to do so."

But it remains far from a done deal. There's ongoing uncertainty on multiple fronts — some are anticipated legal and political fights, and others are less-predictable wrinkles introduced Tuesday by the president himself.

The White House said its executive orders insist on two things: a better Keystone deal for U.S. taxpayers, and pipes made from U.S. steel, which could be problematic given that the parts for Keystone were already purchased, and they include mostly foreign steel.

"We're going to renegotiate some of the terms," Trump said, as he signed the presidential order. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALBERTA

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says a successful Keystone XL pipeline would mean a stronger economy for Canada.

Speaking in Calgary after a cabinet retreat, Trudeau said: "In both the conversations I've had with President Trump now Keystone XL came up as a topic and I reiterated by support for the project."

"I've been on the record for many years supporting it because it mean's economic growth and good jobs for Albertans."

ACTIVISM

Tiny women's march leaves its mark

Marchers in Sandy Cove, N.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

When Gwen Wilson and Melissa Merritt decided at the last minute to organize their own women's march, they were prepared to be the only ones trudging down the sole road in their rural Nova Scotia village on a grey, drizzly Saturday.

The two women who live on the Digby Neck peninsula both wanted to participate in one of the marches to support women's rights, but would have had to travel almost three hours to get to the closest one in Halifax.

So less than 24 hours before millions of people took to the streets around the world, they issued a call to the 65 year-round residents in Sandy Cove and others in villages that dot the peninsula to join them for their own march, expecting they might be alone in their activism.

When they assembled at the meeting spot — a school in Sandy Cove that has 22 students — they were stunned to see about a dozen other women, two men and a few children ready to go.

"We were ecstatic and were like, 'Oh my gosh, there's another truck coming in!'" Wilson exclaimed Tuesday.

What's more, Wilson says they have been overwhelmed by the response to an eight-second video posted on their Facebook site that shows the 15 marchers laughing and ringing bells as they walk along an empty road that cuts through the fishing community.

The video has become an Internet darling, garnering more than 150,000 views. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba Hydro – your energy expert

Unplug devices, turn on savings

Every electronic device has two price tags: The one you see in the store, and the one you see every month on your electricity bill. In a typical home, those televisions, computers, phones and other gadgets consume one-fifth of all energy used.

As your range or variety of devices grows, the energy you use may be increasing more than you realize. Canadian households own 160 per cent more electronics than 10 years ago. When plugged in, most of those devices are drawing power even if turned off. Just one idle gaming console can add $75 to household electricity costs every year.

The good news is that there are ways to reduce the energy use of home electronics and communication devices. With a few simple changes, you can start saving right away.

Pull the plug on hidden energy "vampires"

- Unplug seldom-used devices to prevent them from consuming standby power.
- Give your energy bill a vacation. Before you go away, take a few minutes to unplug everything that isn't essential.

Reduce TV energy use

- Turn down the brightness on your TV. It saves energy and may provide a better picture, too.
- Buy the right size of TV. The ideal screen size is 1.5 times the viewing distance. That's 40 inches for a TV viewed from 5 feet away.
- Use "smart" power bars to make saving more convenient. Plug your TV into the main receptacle and your other A/V devices into "slave" receptacles. When the TV is turned off, the power will be automatically cut to the other devices.

Use your consumer power

- Look for the ENERGY STAR® symbol when buying electronics. The special features of these products are proven to reduce energy use by up to 50 per cent. The "ENERGY STAR Most Efficient" label means a product is the top energy performer in its class.
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Captain Vancouver battles DC Comics

TRADEMARK

'Superhero' realtor faces lawsuit threat

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

"This is Ian, Captain Vancouver." That's how Vancouver real estate agent Ian Brett introduced himself when Metro reached him for an interview Tuesday.

But it's not his Captain Vancouver persona, named after the city's founder, George Vancouver, that has raised eyebrows at DC Comics — it's his other claim, that he is a 'Real Estate Superhero,' that has the company's lawyers threatening to sue.

According to a letter published on Brett's website, DC Comics wants him to withdraw his trademark application for "Real Estate Superhero" and to stop using a red and yellow shield symbol, reminiscent of Superman's 'S'.

"While our client does not object to use of CAPTAIN VANCOUVER to promote your real estate business, use of SUPERMAN indicia and the SUPER HERO trademarks is not permissible," stated a Jan. 9, 2017 letter from Bereskin & Parr, the Canadian intellectual property law firm representing DC Comics.

Brett's website depicts the realtor in a blue 18th century British naval-officer outfit with a shirt underneath that features a six-point shield — but with a 'Re' for Realtor in it instead of an S.

But Brett, who has worked as a full-time realtor for four years, called DC Comics' request unfair, characterizing the fight as a David and Goliath situation.

Ian Brett, or Captain Vancouver, says DC Comics wants him to withdraw his trademark application for "Real Estate Superhero."
CONTRIBUTED

HOUSING

Rising prices widen search for homes

High house prices in the Greater Toronto Area are spilling over into nearby markets, especially those within commuting distance, according to the latest report from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

Historically, prospective homebuyers in Ontario who have found themselves priced out of the Toronto area have migrated to Hamilton, Barrie and Guelph to buy single-family homes, according to CMHC.

But the federal housing agency says that most recently people have been moving even further out, especially to the St. Catharines-Niagara region.

As the price of low-rise homes in the Toronto area has soared, house prices in nearby communities like Hamilton, Barrie and Guelph have also been driven up, said Jean-Sebastien Michel, principal of the market analysis centre at CMHC.

According to CMHC, Hamilton — roughly 70 kilometres from Toronto — is the Ontario market that's most sensitive to housing prices within the Greater Toronto Area.

The report estimates that a one-per-cent change in GTA house prices could increase or decrease Hamilton prices by two per cent after three years.

A similar but smaller multiplier effect would be felt in Guelph, Brantford, Kitchener, Barrie, Peterborough and St. Catharines, which is about 112 km from Toronto.

> **Allow developers to build more 'missing middle' housing types.**
> Tim Hudak

Tim Hudak, CEO of the Ontario Real Estate Association, says the lack of supply is the main factor behind soaring detached home prices in the GTA.

"The best way to ensure young families and first-time buyers have a shot at buying a home is by putting more homes on the market," Hudak said in a statement.

"One way to increase housing stock is to allow developers to build more 'missing middle' housing types, like townhomes, duplexes and stacked townhomes. Increasing the housing stock is necessary to give buyers more options at affordable levels, in areas that make sense for them to be in."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Research shows fracking fluids cause harm to fish

Research has found that liquids released from fracked oil and gas wells can harm fish even at low concentrations.

University of Alberta biologist Greg Goss and his colleagues conducted a study using water that flowed from an actual fracked well.

"The real risk comes from the disposal process, where (companies) have to truck it to a new site or pipeline it to a new site," Goss said Tuesday.

The researchers exposed rainbow trout to "sub-lethal" levels of such fluids. Even at dilutions as low as 2.5 per cent fish showed significant impact on their livers and gills. Goss calls the effect "oxidative stress." That means chemicals in the water force liver and gill cells to age and die more quickly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada emerges as tax haven

It's called 'snow washing,' which means using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate.

Canada is quietly emerging as a popular tax haven for the global elite, who create shell companies with figurehead directors to evade or avoid taxes, a Toronto Star/CBC-Radio Canada investigation has found.

"Canada is a good place to create tax planning structures to minimize taxes like interest, dividends, capital gains, retirement income and rental income," reads a 2010 internal memo from Mossack Fonseca, the law firm behind the massive Panama Papers leak of 11.5 million documents detailing global tax avoidance and evasion.

It's called "snow washing" — using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate. A sprawling international tax avoidance industry is increasingly touting Canada as a jurisdiction for hiding wealth.

And the Canadian government has made it easier than ever for criminals and tax cheats to move money in and out by signing tax agreements with 115 countries — the greatest number in the world.

Another key reason is that Canada's corporate registration systems are shrouded in the same kind of secrecy that exists in tax havens such as the British Virgin Islands, Panama and the Bahamas. Company owners who don't wish to be identified in Canadian corporate registries can pay a lawyer or a stand-in to appear on all public filings.

Mossack Fonseca actively marketed Canada as a tax haven and established shell companies here to evade taxes, according to the documents obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

> "It's like the ultimate tax haven entity in the world."
> Mark Morris, independent tax consultant

And the discredited Panamanian firm is not alone. The Maple Leaf is emblazoned on dozens of international corporate registry websites pitching the country as a legitimate option for hiding wealth. Of greatest interest to foreign investors are Canadian limited partnerships (LPs): a corporate structure that has no tax filing requirements. Only the partners behind an LP have to file taxes, and if they're not residents of Canada, no taxes are filed here at all.

"Canada is a horrible tax haven. Everybody is now switched over from using (British Virgin Islands) companies and Cayman companies to Canadian LPs. It's like the ultimate tax haven entity in the world," said Mark Morris, an independent tax consultant based in Zurich who specializes in international tax agreements.

Tax industry insiders call Canada a "white-listed" tax destination — a kind of flag of convenience for foreign-controlled shell companies with no legitimate business operations in the country.

"You've got this entity in Canada; banks or other parties in other countries are going to presume that it's legitimate and OK — pure as the driven snow of the great white north," said Toronto tax lawyer Jonathan Garbutt.

While Canadian companies must pay taxes on their worldwide incomes to the Canada Revenue Agency, Ramses Owens, Mossack Fonseca's managing director in Panama, told colleagues there's an easy way around this.

"I believe the Canada companies … are managed in a way that the administrators simply declare annually NO-ACTIVITY. In other words, they cheat a bit," he wrote in an email in August 2010.

"It is impossible for the Canada revenue governmental system to look into such information for every single company formed in Canada … This is risky, but we will try to provide the service."

Shortly afterward, Mossack Fonseca produced a flyer promoting Canada as a tax haven jurisdiction, offering to register a corporation for $2,000.

Mossack Fonseca did not respond to requests for comment.

"You cannot but help look at the issue of money laundering. Having a degree of anonymity allows individuals to obfuscate," said Peter Dent, a forensic accountant and past chair of Transparency International Canada.

"Rules that allow you to obfuscate the true source of money behind transactions facilitate money laundering on a global scale." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DIGEST DAY 5

White House spokesman perpetuates false claims

Promoting yet another lie, Sean Spicer, the chief spokesman for U.S. President Donald Trump said Trump believes millions of illegal immigrants voted illegally in the presidential election.

This did not happen.

There were fewer than a dozen claims of voter fraud across the country. In a December legal filing arguing against a recount in Michigan, Trump's own lawyers wrote, "All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud."

Trump, though, is sensitive about the fact that Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton received more votes than him. He wrote on Twitter in November that he "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally," and he repeated the nonsensical claim in a private meeting with congressional leaders on Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Abortion ban expanded

Trump has massively expanded the ban on providing federal money to international family planning groups that perform abortions or provide abortion information to all organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance. Spicer announced Monday that the ban on family planning funding had been reinstituted.

The order directs the secretary of state, in cooperation with the secretary of health and human services, for the first time to extend the requirements in the ban "to global health assistance furnished by all departments or agencies." The ban is known as the Mexico City Policy or Global Gag Rule.

International organizations receiving U.S. funds for health programs will be required to certify that it does not provide abortion services, counselling, information or advocate for the liberalization of abortion laws, even with non-U.S. funds. If they don't, their funding will be cut off.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, January 25, 2017

JESSICA ALLEN ON THE POWER OF PROTEST

Public marches have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not the point — though there are many examples of marches that did effect tangible change

Simon asked if I wanted him to join me at the Women's March in Toronto on Saturday. Because it was my first protest, and I wasn't sure why I felt compelled to attend, I told him that I'd like to go it alone. Besides, he could stay home to do the laundry and make dinner.

When the packed streetcar stopped in front of Queen's Park, everyone on board gasped at the sight of thousands gathered on the greens and the sound of their swelling cheers. We broke out into applause before joining them.

I overheard a father delicately explaining to his young daughter what "pussy" meant, a woman telling her group that a friend of hers in Ethiopia had travelled 90 hours to get to the Women's March on Washington, and I saw another proudly take her birth-control pill.

There were protesters carrying a black cardboard coffin with "Patriarchy" painted in white on its side. There were signs that read "I can't believe I still have to protest this sh–t" and semi-absurd ones, like "We Shall Overcomb." There were signs about feminism, racism, inclusivity and pipelines. I also saw a white woman holding an eagle feather, performing a smudging ceremony. For a moment, I understood why so many were dismissing the March as aimless.

But just as the crowd readied itself to move, I remembered something I'd read mid-week: "There's been a strong hint of gendered schadenfreude in the coverage of the march's organizational problems," Jia Tolentino wrote for newyorker.com. "This has obscured the fact that activism is internally contentious by nature. Organization is always tedious, and that's just fine … Imagine any major protest in the twentieth century promoted via Facebook. There would have been no shortage of 'infighting' enshrined on social media for everyone to see."

'What's the point?' That, I confess, is precisely the rhetorical question that had kept me away from past protests and marches.

But why did I come? The Affordable Health Care Act repeal will greatly affect my U.S. friends and their families. The day after the election was the first time misogynist tweeters took dead aim at me, as though Trump's win was permission to say publicly that people who look like me shouldn't be on television. These things troubled me. As the throng began to inch forward, my throat swelled and my eyes cracked tears. I have two jobs. Both my bosses are women. I have a stay-at-home partner. I have never been sexually assaulted. But my mother cannot say the same thing. I came for her, I told myself.

Afterwards, I floated home, where I found Simon hanging up my bras to dry. He started on dinner while I looked at social media, which was flooded with friends' celebratory images from protests in D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Oaxaca and Florence. Most comments were supportive. Others asked: "How can you protest Trump before he's had a chance to govern? Give the man a chance!"

Protesters at the Toronto women's march last Saturday show that they have a well-developed sense of symbolism.
JESSICA ALLEN/FOR METRO

Answering such a question is a tedious exercise, but still worthwhile: Trump has vowed to appoint Supreme Court Justices that will overturn Roe v. Wade, has bragged about committing sexual assault, and wants to defund Planned Parenthood.

If you are tired of hearing this litany of complaint levelled against the commander in chief, imagine how it must feel for women who have to go through the dirty-laundry list — to which we can now add yesterday's reinstatement of the executive order banning foreign aid to NGOs that so much as discuss abortion with patients — every time someone tells us to give him the benefit of the doubt.

And then I saw a tweet from Stephen Taylor, the former national director of the National Citizens Coalition: "Do protestors in Toronto hope that Donald Trump will say, 'Oh, I guess Toronto is upset. I'll resign tomorrow.' What's the point?"

That, I confess, is precisely the rhetorical question that had kept me away from past protests and marches. What made this one different?

Symbolic acts matter. Take the parade that followed Trump's inauguration. Take birthday parties! We don't need to throw a party to get older, and the parade wasn't necessary to achieve the transition of power. They're both for show. Like public marches, they have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not "the point," notwithstanding the many examples of marches throughout history, like the 1913 Women's Suffrage Procession and the 1963 March on Washington, that did effect tangible change.

The fact that the highest-ranking woman in Trump's administration, Kellyanne Conway, is the keynote speaker at this Friday's anti-abortion March for Life certainly means something. And you better believe that the same people who insist that the 600-dd demonstrations on Saturday didn't mean anything would be arguing the opposite if millions in the U.S. and hundreds of thousands across other countries hadn't shown up. That would've meant something.

But we did show up. And the world was watching.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

Trump benefitting from waning U.S. influence

Thomas Walkom

Donald Trump can be thin-skinned and obnoxious. He plays fast and loose with the facts. He has adopted much of the worst of the Republican agenda, including opposition to women's reproductive rights.

No wonder so many people — including so many Canadians — detest the new U.S. president.

But he is also oddly realistic. His America First rhetoric may conjure up memories of 1930s isolationism. It may signal a retreat to Fortress America.

But it also reflects what is going on. America no longer dominates the Western world in the way it once did.

The signs are everywhere. In the Middle East, it is not the U.S. that is brokering an end to the devastating Syrian civil war. Rather that role has been taken on by Russia, Iran and Turkey.

In the Korean peninsula, it has become clear that any solution to the problem of a nuclear-armed North lies not in Washington but Beijing.

Even America's former colony, the Philippines, is pivoting away from the U.S. and toward China.

Economic integration? Trump officially killed the Trans Pacific Partnership this week. But he was merely delivering the coup de grace. Opposition to the deal was so strong in the U.S. that even Democratic Party presidential contender Hillary Clinton, a former fan, vowed to kill it.

Meanwhile, China is forging ahead to create its own economic zone. Its Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which the U.S. has refused to join, now has 57 members — including Britain, Germany and France. Canada is applying to sign on.

Trump has questioned NATO's relevance, at one point calling it "obsolete." He's also called it "very important to me."

How the president squares these remarks is not entirely clear. But he is not the first to question the need for a military alliance set up to counter a Soviet Union that no longer exists.

Those who see Vladimir Putin's Russia as a modern-day version of the U.S.S.R. argue that NATO remains desperately relevant. But Trump doesn't appear to share those views. Indeed, he appears to think that Russia should be granted the same leeway in its backyard that the U.S., via the Monroe Doctrine, claims for itself in the Americas.

More to the point, he is reluctant to foot so much of the bill for an alliance that may no longer suit U.S. requirements.

And that is the key to what may eventually be called the Trump Doctrine: America's position in the world has changed.

The crisis of 2008-09 demonstrated that America alone is no longer able to solve global economic problems. The election of Trump showed that American workers are no longer willing to assume that what suits U.S. business will suit them.

The rise and decline of great powers is rarely neat. My guess is that America Firster Trump will intervene far more in the world than his critics think.

Still, these days, international leadership is not something the U.S. can so easily afford.

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Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Lin-Manuel Miranda is getting closer to 'EGOT' status, thanks to his Oscar nomination for best original song. The Hamilton creator, who has already won an Emmy, two Grammys and three Tonys, picked up a nod for How Far I'll Go from the animated film Moana.

Oscars not so white

After a badly needed push in the right direction, the Academy Awards recognize that there's nothing as diverse as talent

OSCARS LOWDOWN

3

Viola Davis is now the first African-American actress to score three Academy Award nominations.

$100M

None of the best picture nominees has yet grossed more than $100 million in the U.S. The film Arrival comes close with $95.7 million, followed by La La Land with $89.7 million.

Among the Canadians earning Oscar nods is Theodore Ushev for best animated short, and a number of the Arrival crew including producer Shawn Levy and director Denis Villeneuve.

Viola Davis is up for best supporting actress for her role in Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation, Fences. She was previously nominated for Doubt in 2009 and The Help in 2012. CONTRIBUTED

Peter Howell
Torstar News Service

There were few surprises and even fewer snubs among Tuesday's diverse nominees for the 89th Academy Awards, which is exactly as it should have been.

There's not a single undeserved nomination amongst the lot of them, even if academy voters rightly felt pressure to address the dearth of non-white actors in two previous years of nominations.

Sometimes a little push is needed to get people to do the right thing.

As predicted by pundits and earlier wins, Damien Chazelle's Hollywood ode La La Land topped the golden list with 14 nominations, including best picture, director, actor (Ryan Gosling) and actress (Emma Stone), tying Titanic (1997) and All About Eve (1950) for the Oscar noms record.

The singing-and-dancing sensation also breaks the record for most nominated musical, set a half-century ago by Mary Poppins, which had 13 nods.

Tied as the closest challengers to La La Land, with eight nominations apiece including Best Picture and Director, are Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama Moonlight and Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi thriller Arrival.

The other six Best Picture nominees — Manchester by the Sea, Fences, Lion, Hidden Figures, Hacksaw Ridge and Hell or High Water — make for a total of nine, one more than last year and all of them dramas.

Most significant of all is the large amount of diversity in the nominations, even if leader La La Land has a mostly white cast and features Gosling as a defender of jazz, a musical form created by African-Americans and Indigenous North Americans.

"I'm still waiting on an end to the cultural appropriation of the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience,

April Reign, the writer who coined the #OscarsSoWhite hashtag last year

Seven of the 20 acting nominees are people of colour, while four of the nine Best Picture contenders — Moonlight, Fences, Lion and Hidden Figures — tell diverse stories with non-white actors in most of the leading roles.

After two years when visible minorities were conspicuously absent from the Oscar leaders board, this is a welcome development, if also a completely expected one.

The nominations seemed to please April Reign, the New York writer and editor who coined the #OscarsSoWhite Twitter hashtag that helped push a foot-dragging academy into making needed changes to promote diversity, including increasing the number of non-white voters.

"Some surprises, some spot-on decisions . . . Things are changing because our voices are strongest together," Reign wrote in a pair of tweets.

It was particularly gratifying to see Oscar nominations for Moonlight's Barry Jenkins, and also Mahershala Ali and Naomie Harris in the respective best supporting actor and actress categories, three of the reasons why this wonderfully wise film topped my list of best movies of 2016.

It's also great to see Meryl Streep get her record 20th Oscar nomination for playing a tone-deaf singer in Florence Foster Jenkins.

It's a nomination she likely gained not only for her considerable talent but also in appreciation of her marvellous rip into Donald Trump's xenophobic ways at the Golden Globes earlier this month, who retaliated by childishly calling her "one of the most overrated actresses in Hollywood."

Also nice are the long-overdue best actress nod for Isabelle Huppert (Elle) and best actor nom for Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic), indicating that the academy is willing to recognize overlooked actors of any colour.

What few snubs there were — the acting MIA list include Tom Hanks for Sully, Amy Adams for Arrival, Annette Bening for 20th Century Women — are fewer in number than in previous years and not unexpected in a year so rich with talent.

Oscar can't get everything right. But at least this year, it got the most important thing right, by recognizing that talent doesn't just come in one colour.

I'm very grateful to the Academy. It was a true collaboration, so to see everyone else's wonderful work on the film acknowledged so generously makes it even more special.

Ontario's Ryan Gosling, who earned his second best actor nomination for La La Land, 10 years after his first nod for Half Nelson

I called my mother and she was at work in the care home, and she just started screaming and crying and everyone was looking through the glass wondering why she's making a big scene.

Dev Patel, the third actor of Indian descent to be nominated for an Oscar for Lion

My friends have definitely helped guide me and assist me through things, my family helped me keep the lights on during certain years, and my wife knows how much she's contributed to my well-being, so I'm happy.

Mahershala Ali, best actor nominee for Moonlight

Make movie night pop

RECIPES

Salute the kernel with these salty, stellar snacks

Ricardo Larrivée
For Torstar News Service

Fluff up your pillows, slip on your sweats, cue up a favourite flick and take movie night to the next level with these three popcorn recipes. Your kids will never look at the old-school snack the same way again.

Plus, they can easily help make these three fun flavours — all you'll need to do is supervise. We suggest making them all — spicy barbecue, tangy ketchup and caramelized brown sugar — so that everyone can mix and match.

Best of all, if there's any left (unlikely), it'll keep for days in an airtight container so you can do it all over again next weekend.

If there are any leftovers, these popcorn bowls will keep for days afterward . RICARDO LARRIVÉE

Sweet popcorn
Makes four cups.

Ingredients:
- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) lightly packed brown sugar

Directions:
1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and brown sugar, stirring frequently. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheet to dry.

5. Popcorn will keep for 1 week in an airtight container or sealable bag.

BBQ popcorn
Makes four cups.

Ingredients:
- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) chili powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) paprika
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) garlic salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 mL) cayenne pepper, or to taste

Directions:
1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan, melt butter with chili powder, paprika, garlic salt and cayenne pepper. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheet to dry.

5. Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.

Ketchup popcorn
Makes four cups.

Ingredients:
- 8 cups (2 L) plain popcorn
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) salted butter
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) paprika
- 1 tsp (5 mL) onion salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) garlic salt

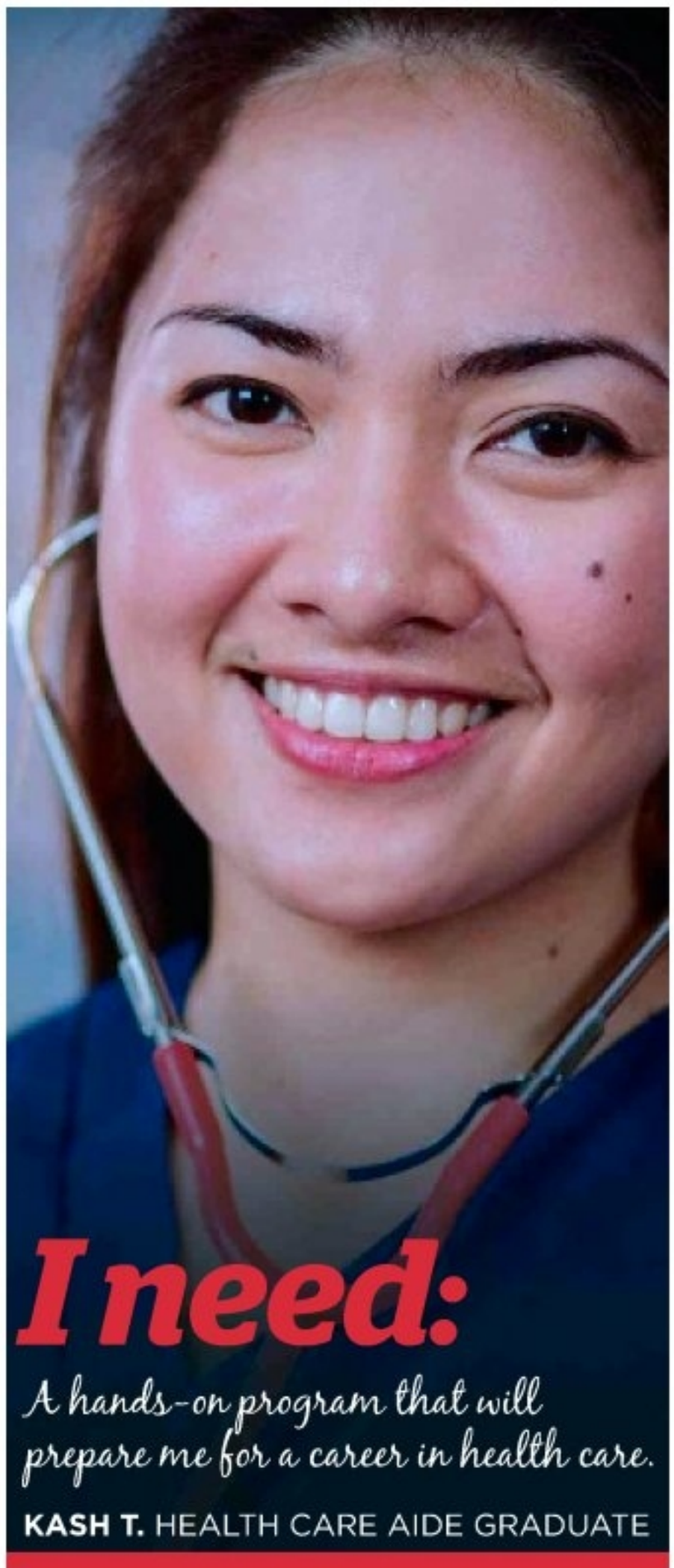
Directions:
1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan, melt butter with ketchup, salt, paprika, onion salt and garlic salt. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for about 10 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking, or until popcorn is dry to the touch.

5. Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.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RX 350 shines on the highway

REVIEW

Quiet, comfy, and it handles great in a snowstorm

Lucas Cooney
AutoGuide.com

I took a 2017 Lexus RX 350 to take me and a cameraman up north for a story for sister site ATV.com.

While a more performance-oriented Lexus might have been a better match for the sporty side-by-side ATV, an unexpected snowstorm during our four-hour drive made me thankful for the burlier 2017 Lexus RX 350.

Like many people, I'm a torn on the outward appearance of the RX. While I do like the general shape and form of the vehicle, it's in need of a nose job. The giant grille up front was the first thing my wife noticed, and it wasn't because she loved it. It certainly stands out, just not in a good way.

The test car was equipped with gorgeous 20-inch allow wheels, which come as part of the F-Sport Series 3 package. The wheels help make the RX a nice looking vehicle, so long as you only see it in profile.

Step inside the RX and there are few complaints with the beautiful interior. Highlights include F-Sport seats wrapped in leather that offer both heating and cooling, a heated and leather-wrapped steering wheel, aluminum sport pedals, and a panoramic glass roof. The optional 15-speaker Mark Levinson audio system is the cherry on top of the sundae.

It's on the highway where this vehicle really shines. Even at highway speeds, the RX offers a luxuriously quiet and comfortable ride as the 295-horsepower V6 smoothly eats up kilometre after kilometre of snowy road.

Due to the storm, the wind was occasionally violent and the RX would sway a little but it never felt out of control.

When the lanes were largely clear of snow, the lane keep assist feature did a remarkably good job of keeping the vehicle between the lines. This feature was far more active during the windy drive up north than in the calmer conditions on the return trip.

The RX was not quite as at home in the city. That uber-comfortable suspension on the highway seems to come at the cost of a slightly sloppy feeling while taking tighter turns on city streets or braking even slightly aggressively.

Because I'm cheap, I spent most of my time driving the RX in Eco mode. That worked just fine on the highway, but in the city, it turned the engine into a dullard with a painfully slow response.

Going against my skinflint instincts, I briefly took advantage of the F Sport Series 3 package's Sport S+ Mode and the personality changed dramatically. An RX will never be truly sporty, but the Sport S+ Mode really livens things up and makes the RX, dare I say it, sort of fun when taking off from a dead stop.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 LEXUS RX 350

THE BASICS

Engine: 3.5L V6
Power: 295 hp, 267 lb-ft
Transmission: Eight-speed auto
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 12.2 city, 8.9 hwy
Price: Starts at $55,900

LOVE IT

- Ultra quiet interior
- Comfortable ride
- Loaded with cool features

LEAVE IT

- Fugly nose
- A bit dull (except in Sport S+ Mode)
- Terrible infotainment interface

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metro SPORTS

"It's been a (lousy) 2017 so far": LeBron James urged the front office to do more after the Cavs' fell to 5-6 in 2017 with Monday's loss in New Orleans

Jets sunk by clutch Marleau

NHL

Laine's return spoiled by red-hot Shark

Patrick Marleau scored the game-winner with 4:33 left in the third period as the San Jose Sharks extended their win streak to six games with a 4-3 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday.

Marleau was the hero for the second straight night after he scored four goals in the third period of San Jose's 5-2 win over Colorado on Monday.

The veteran forward's 17th goal of the season came off a pass across the front of the net from Ryan Carpenter, which Marleau shot into an open net by Ondrej Pavelec at 15:27.

After a review, Winnipeg had a goal waved off with 17 seconds remaining to a chorus of boos from the MTS Centre crowd.

Brent Burns, Logan Couture and Melker Karlsson, on a penalty shot, also scored for the Sharks (31-16-2).

Goalie Aaron Dell, playing in his ninth game this season for San Jose, finished with 31 saves.

Bryan Little scored twice and Andrew Copp had Winnipeg's other goal. Defencemen Dustin Byfuglien and Josh Morrissey each picked up a pair of assists.

Pavelec got his fourth straight start in net and stopped 22 shots for the Jets (22-25-4).

The teams were tied 2-2 heading into the third period.

Little made it 3-2 at 4:00 with his second goal of the game off a fortunate bounce. His shot off a rebound and the puck hit the crossbar, bounced off Dell's back and trickled across the line.

Winnipeg rookie star Patrik Laine, returning to action after missing seven games with a concussion, assisted on the goal for his 38th point of the season.

With the Sharks short-handed because of a tripping penalty, Karlsson was checked from behind by Jets defenceman Jacob Trouba and got a penalty shot. He made it count, sending the puck over Pavelec's glove to tie it 3-3 at 9:37.

San Jose's Melker Karlsson scores a penalty-shot goal on Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec Tuesday night. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TUESDAY At MTS Centre

4	3
SHARKS	JETS

The teams were also tied 1-1 after the first period.

Burns scored his 21st goal of the season 53 seconds into a two-man advantage at 3:59 of the first, after the Jets were dinged for slashing and then too many men on the ice.

Morrissey set up Winnipeg's tying goal with a long lead pass to Little, who got away from Sharks defenceman Joel Ward and put a low shot by Dell at 8:02.

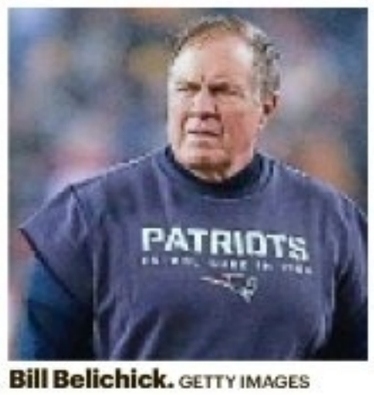
San Jose quickly regained the lead 27 seconds into the second after Couture redirected a pass from Mikkel Boedker for his 16th of the season.

After the Jets had a goal waved off, Copp scored with a high slap shot at 1:59 left to even the score 2-2.

The loss concluded Winnipeg's four-game homestand (2-2-0). THE CANADIAN PRESS

21:52

Patrik Laine had an assist, three shots on goal and was a minus-1 in 21:52 of ice time in his return from injury.



Bill Belichick. GETTY IMAGES

SUPER BOWL

Belichick figuring out Falcons

Bill Belichick is on to the Atlanta Falcons. After taking a day to review and recharge following his team's AFC championship game win over Pittsburgh, the New England coach said Tuesday that the coaching staff's preparations are fully underway for the Super Bowl.

The Patriots are preparing to make their seventh Super Bowl appearance during the Belichick era, making them veterans at handling the various logistics involved with the big game. Belichick said it's helped them turn the page "about as quickly as we could."

"We're on to Atlanta now as a coaching staff. We're deep in the middle of them," he said.

The Patriots do have some familiarity with Falcons coach Dan Quinn, who was defensive co-ordinator of the Seattle Seahawks when the teams met in the Super Bowl two years ago.

"They have some of their own characteristics and of course the players are different, so that makes it different," Belichick said. "But schematically there is quite a bit of carryover."

One of the key differences, he said, is that the Falcons seem to bring a little more pressure than Seattle ran. Belichick also sees similarities in the schemes, which rely on players of similar skillsets such as Seattle's Kam Chancellor and Atlanta's Keanu Neal.

"Go right down the line — they're similar," Belichick said.

The Patriots defence will again have to contend with a dynamic receiver. Julio Jones had nine receptions for 180 yards and two scores in Atlanta's NFC championship game win over Green Bay, but will be challenged by a New England secondary that has given up just two passing touchdowns in the playoffs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2018 PARALYMPICS GAMES

Nicholson named chef for South Korea

Former sledge hockey captain Todd Nicholson will be Canada's chef de mission at the 2018 Paralympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The native of Dunrobin, Ont., played for Canada from 1989 to 2010, winning gold, silver and bronze during that span.

The chef de mission acts as the face and spokesman of the team during the Games. Canada won 16 medals at the 2014 Games in Sochi, including seven gold, two silver and seven bronze.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Todd Nicholson THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Olympic diver Filion retires

Three-time Canadian Olympian Roseline Filion has retired after two decades of competitive diving.

Filion teamed with Meaghan Benfeito to earn back-to-back Olympic bronze medals in the 10-metre synchro.

"It's with great emotions that after 20 years of being a competitive athlete, I decided to retire," the native of Laval, Que., posted on Twitter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Roethlisberger is eyeing retirement

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger isn't sure he'll be back in 2017.

Roethlisberger said during his weekly radio appearance on Tuesday that he is going to take some time to evaluate whether he wants to keep playing. The two-time Super Bowl winner will turn 35 in March and has missed time in each of the last two seasons with knee issues. Roethlisberger is under contract through 2020.

Coach Mike Tomlin says Roethlisberger has mentioned possible retirement to the coaching staff at various points. Longtime Pittsburgh tight end Heath Miller, a good friend of Roethlisberger's, retired last February at age 33.

Ben Roethlisberger GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Life getting in way of rugby success

PROS VS. AMATEURS

Canada coach faces tough choices for February tests

The challenges of coaching Canada's men's rugby team are myriad, on and off the field.

While Tier 1 nations like England have a structure in place that allows them to assemble their top talent for February test matches during the international window, Canadian coach Mark Anscombe is forced to do a delicate dance in choosing his overseas players.

In selecting his squad for the Americas Rugby Championship, the New Zealand native has essentially elected not to summon players from top European leagues to avoid disrupting their club careers.

"We haven't brought them all back. It's a balancing act of making sure we're competitive but looking where players are coming from," said Anscombe.

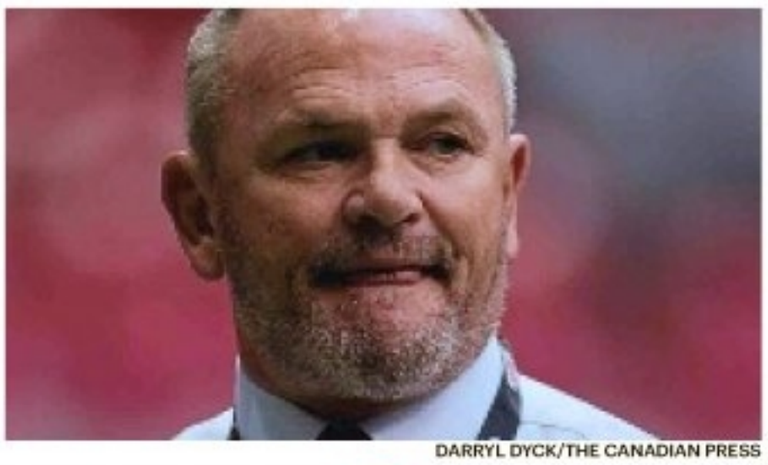
He has been able to bring back prop Djustice Sears-Duru of the Glasgow Warriors, backs Taylor Paris and Conor Trainor from their French second-division clubs and Matt Tierney, Matt Beukeboom and George Barton from their French club academy sides.

Anscombe's 29-man squad for the ARC, which runs Feb. 3 to March 3, contains just six of the starting 15 he had against Samoa in November as well as six of the reserves from that day.

Injuries are another stumbling block. But given much of the Canadian player pool is amateur, so are work and school.

"It's very frustrating," Anscombe said of the selection headaches. "It's the reality of amateur rugby.

"Where I come from (in New Zealand), if you're considering someone for an international, he's a professional rugby player so there's no question he's available and he's going to jump at the opportunity.



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"To take five weeks off to go and do something in a lot of cases is not their No. 1 priority.**
> Mark Anscombe

"But here the guys are amateur. They play club rugby and they go to school and they work."

That is one of the reasons Anscombe has selected an extended 29-man ARC squad, which will be trimmed for the final two road games.

Canada, ranked 18th in the world, opens Feb. 4 against a second-tier Argentina 'A' side at Westhills Stadium in Langford, B.C., a game that does not have test status.

The next four games for the Canadians are all test matches: against No. 29 Chile on Feb. 11 in Langford, the 17th-ranked U.S. on Feb. 18 in Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, B.C., and road matches Feb. 25 against No. 21 Uruguay and March 4 against No. 36 Brazil.

Anscombe's squad includes nine uncapped players: Beukeboom, Barton, Cole Keith, Conor Keys, Rory McDonell, Ollie Nott, Reegan O'Gorman, Carl Pocock and Robbie Povey

The 20 other players, who include veterans Ray Barkwill, Nick Blevins, Phil Mack and Pat Parfrey, have a combined 268 test caps.

Canada is coming off a bumpy November tour that saw a best available roster lose to fourth-ranked Ireland (52-21), No. 16 Romania (21-16) and No. 15 Samoa (25-23).

He pointed to a competitive 60 minutes against Ireland, before the bottom fell out.

"The November window, we had 18 domestic players in our squad. Now 18 domestic players playing international rugby takes its toll," he said. "Each game you're playing, you're playing against a full squad of professional players that train and prepare every day. And that in a nutshell is your big difference.

"We need more of our guys in environments that can challenge them and they can work on it daily because that's what the rest of the world is in the market we're playing.

Until that happens, Anscombe believes both North American teams will be hard-pressed to take the next step against world competition. Canada's top domestic players are centralized in Langford. But the lack of a pro league leaves only amateur competition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INJURY UPDATE

McIlroy hopes for early-March return

Rory McIlroy is targeting the Mexico Championship in March as his return to tournament action from injury.

McIlroy aggravated a rib stress fracture while finishing runner-up at the SA Open in Gauteng two weekends ago. Those injuries typically take about six weeks to heal, and he believes he'll be ready to play again in the first World Golf Championship of the year, from March 2-5.

Rory McIlroy
GETTY IMAGES

"I feel like I can maybe get back before that, but if I were to play (the) Honda (Classic) and then go straight to Mexico, I'd be playing two weeks in a row. I'd like to ease my way back in gently," he said on Tuesday.

McIlroy put the rib injury down to an extra-busy off-season, when he hit a lot of balls to make a swing change and test drivers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Argos fire GM Barker

The Toronto Argonauts fired general manager Jim Barker on Tuesday after the team finished at the bottom of the CFL standings last season.

The Argos were tied with Saskatchewan for last in the league at 5-13.

Barker spent six seasons as GM, winning a Grey Cup in 2012.

The team says Scott Milanovich, who was hired by Barker, will remain as the Argos head coach.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays sign Saltalamacchia to minor-league deal: Source

A person with knowledge of the negotiations says the Toronto Blue Jays have agreed to a minor league contract with free agent catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia.

The agreement is reportedly subject to a physical and Toronto had not made an announcement.

Saltalamacchia would get a $1.25 million, one-year contract if added to the major league roster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

Ivory Coast's reign ends vs. Morocco

Ivory Coast didn't even make it past the group stage in its defence of the African Cup of Nations as it crashed out without winning a game on Tuesday.

Ivory Coast needed to beat Morocco in the last round of matches in Group C to make the quarter-finals but lost 1-0 to follow Algeria out of the African championship in Gabon — two big teams gone in the space of 24 hours.

TUESDAY In Oyem, Gabon

IVORY COAST	MOROCCO
1	0

Instead, Congo topped the group with a colorful 3-1 win over Togo in Port-Gentil, where the Congolese players danced in front of their fans for every one of their goals, and again at fulltime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Elegant Roasted Cod Provencal

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This restaurant-worthy dinner may come off all elegant but it couldn't be simpler to make on a weeknight.

Ready in 40 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 bulb of fennel, trimmed and thinly sliced (retain the fennel fronds for garnish)
- 1 red pepper, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1 x 28 oz. can of tomatoes
- 1/3 cup black olived, pitted
- 4 filets of cod

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

2. In a large skillet, warm olive oil over medium heat. Toss in garlic, onions and fennel and sauté about five minutes until vegetables begin to soften. Add peppers and herbs and cook another three minutes.

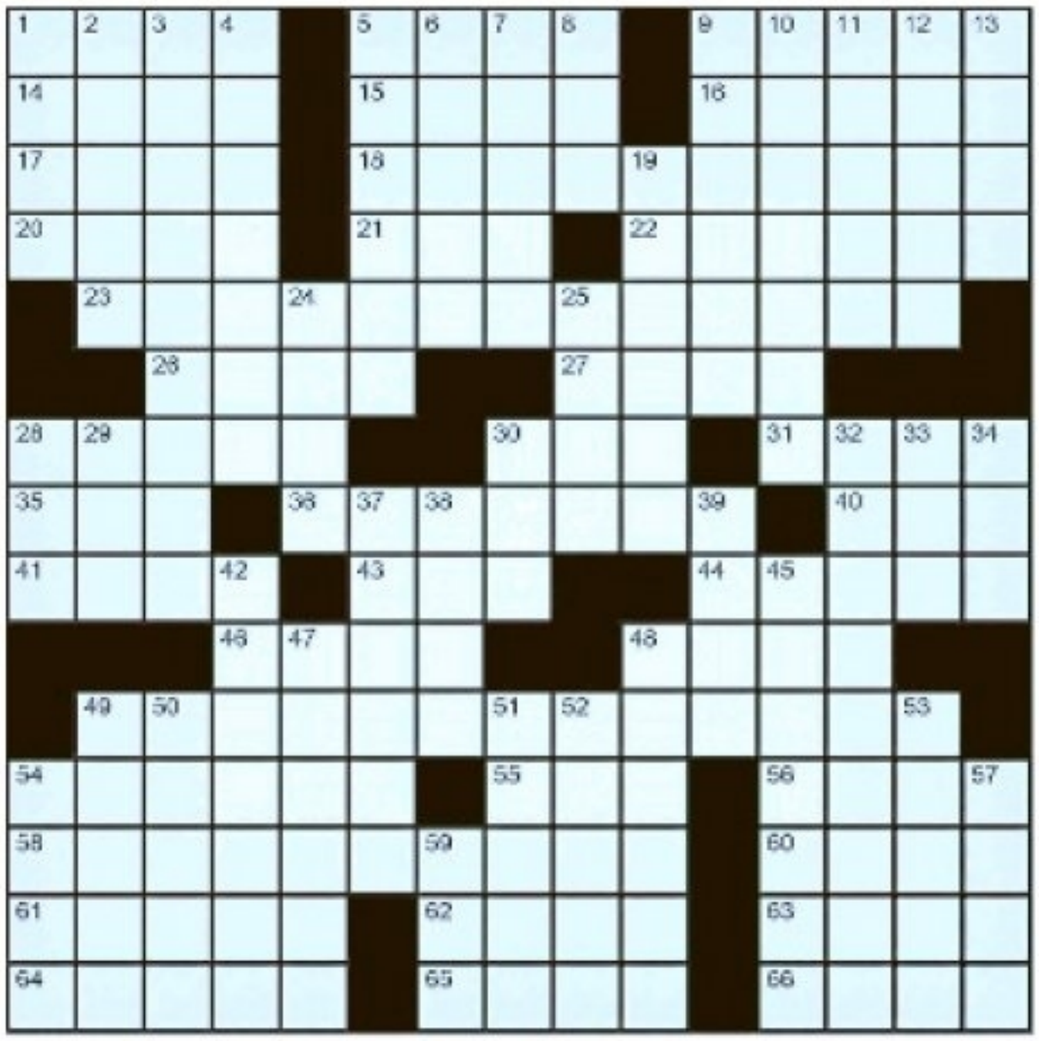
3. Add tomatoes and olives. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up tomatoes. Allow to simmer and thicken for about 10 minutes.

4. Pour the sauce into a baking dish. Lay the cod over the sauce and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until fish is flaky. Sprinkle finely chopped fennel fronds over top.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Butterfingers
5. Worker's two-days-from-Wed. holler!
9. Grammy, for one
14. Conspiracy
15. Forearm bone
16. Battle royal
17. Country of West Africa
18. 2017: It's on display more than ever during Canada 150
20. Fair
21. Dutch city
22. Pope's emissary
23. Song on The Tragically Hip's 'Road Apples' album alluding to the legendary afterlife: 2 wds.
26. Early helicopter
27. Not as much
28. _-Barbera (Cartoon-creating team)
30. Rihanna's "_-_-_ (Rescue Me)"
31. Maple trees' drinks
35. Camel hair garment
36. Sorts of seals
40. Gladiator's 3
41. Narrate
43. Jay Z's wife, to pals
44. Job seeker's interviewer
46. Comic Mr. Sandler
48. Brewery kiln
49. The Tragically Hip tune with an office setting video: 4 wds.
54. Fun piece of jewellery
55. "Gee!", to a Scot
56. Ms. Del Rey
58. Not difficult to enter, as a building
60. Winnipeg's Portage and Ottawa's Carling, e.g.
61. Mother-of-pearl
62. Untruther
63. Shipbuilding wood
64. Murders bugs this way
65. Academic terms, for short
66. Antiquities

DOWN
1. Goes for
2. Distant in demeanor
3. Warning for mariners: 2 wds.
4. Acted as a replacement for somebody: 2 wds.
5. Mississippi city where Elvis Presley was born
6. Air freshener brand
7. Prefix with 'continental'
8. Way out
9. Secret love affairs
10. Non-dry quality
11. "The Brady Bunch" housekeeper
12. Pine tree stuff
13. Garage band's CD
19. Consume
24. Pull along
25. Plum-like fruit
28. Fedora, for one
29. Bart Simpson's grandfather
30. Hue of blue
32. It sometimes results in jet lag: 2 wds.
33. Apple _
34. Gentleman's title
37. Puts down
38. Quasi
39. Canadian telecommunications firm
42. Miranda of country tunes
45. Sequester
47. Edible seaweeds
48. Nicole Kidman movie, "The _" (2001)
49. Particular parrot
50. Icky-sounding plant
51. Canadian actress Ms. Smulders
52. Happy as _ _ (Glad)
53. Work the dough
54. Ray-_ (Sunglasses)
57. Is inquisitive
59. They, in Tadoussac

✷ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your relationships with bosses and authority figures today will be easygoing. They will be willing to listen to you, and you will be willing to listen to them. Of course, this doesn't mean you will agree.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Because your appreciation of beauty is heightened today, give yourself a chance to enjoy beautiful places and things. Visit art galleries, museums, beautiful buildings and parks.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have to share something with someone today, be careful to protect your own best interests. It's good to be generous — but don't be a doormat.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Because the Moon today is opposite your sign, you must go more than halfway when dealing with others. This simply requires some tolerance and patience.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do something today that will help you feel better organized. Set aside 15 minutes, and use this time to tidy up things and get on top of your game.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a creative day for you. If you work in the arts, you will be productive. Trust your imagination and your artistic skills. You also feel sensitive to the needs of children.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day for family discussions because everyone will feel mutually sympathetic. If you cannot help someone, you can at least listen with genuine understanding.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might spend a lot of time daydreaming today. Your imagination also is heightened, which is why flights of fantasy might take up some time.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If shopping today, you might be tempted to spend too much money on something luxurious and extravagant. Think about this carefully. Save your receipts.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel more emotional than usual today. Knowing this, be careful not to overreact if you're unhappy about something. Be cool.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	4			9		2		
	6					8	3	7
5	3		2					
				5		9		
3								5
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		3		7			9	

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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4	2	8	5	9	1	6	3	7
9	6	5	2	3	7	8	4	1
7	3	1	8	4	6	2	5	9
8	9	2	7	6	4	3	1	5
1	5	6	3	2	9	4	7	8
3	7	4	1	5	8	9	2	6
5	1	9	4	8	2	7	6	3
6	4	3	9	7	5	1	8	2
2	8	7	6	1	3	5	9	4

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Wednesday, February 22, 2017
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